

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Notice of Final Public Meeting and Public Comment for a Total Maximum
Daily Load Study in the Elizabeth River and several tributaries

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will host a public meeting on a water quality study for the Elizabeth River mainstem, branches and several tributaries, on **Tuesday February 23, 2010**.

The meeting will start at **7:00 p.m.** in the **Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Board Room** located at 723 Woodlake Dr, Chesapeake. The purpose of the study will be to review sources of bacteria identified in the watershed and to present the reductions in bacteria loadings needed to allow streams in the watershed to meet water quality goals.

The affected streams were identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report and Virginia's 2002 303(d) Report on Impaired Waters as impaired due to violations of Virginia's water quality standards for fecal coliform bacteria. These streams are therefore not supporting the Primary Contact Recreation (swimmable) Designated Use. The impairments include the Mainstem, Eastern Branch, Southern Branch, Western Branch, Lafayette River, Broad Creek, Indian River, and Paradise Creek.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia, require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report and subsequent Water Quality Assessment Reports.

During the study, DEQ will develop a Total Maximum Daily Load for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, pollutant levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

The public comment period on materials presented at this meeting will extend from February 24, 2010 to March 25, 2010. For additional information or to submit comments, contact Jennifer Howell, in the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Tidewater Regional Office, 5636 Southern Blvd, Virginia Beach VA 23462, by phone (757) 518-2111 or by e-mail jennifer.howell@deq.virginia.gov.

* Additional information is also available on the DEQ web site at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.

